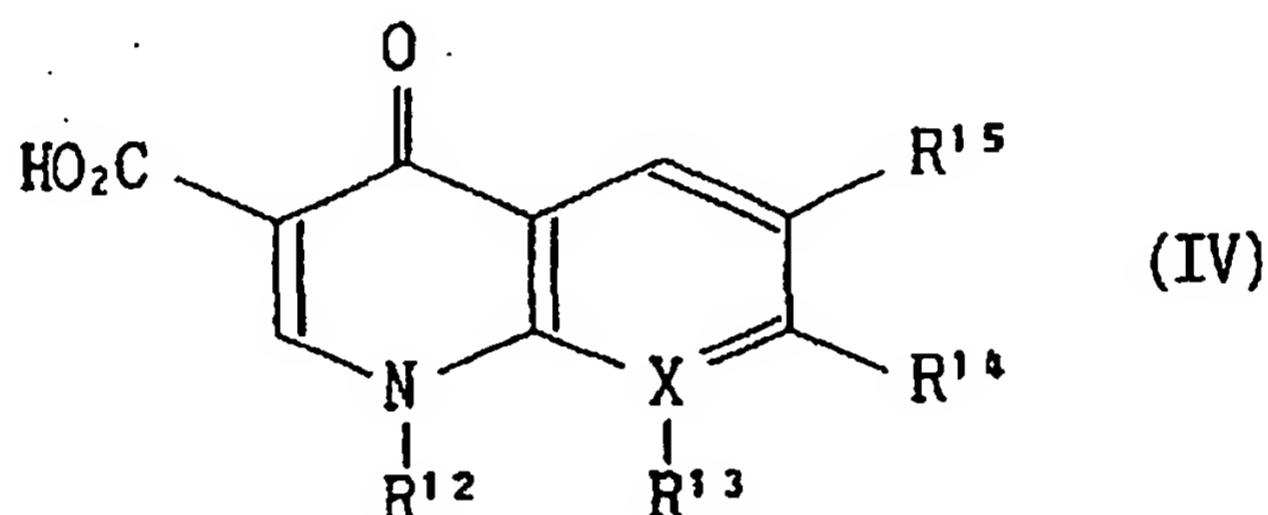


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method for stabilizing an arylcarboxylic acid or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof in an aqueous solution, which comprises adding a pyridonecarboxylic acid selected from

(a) a pyridonecarboxylic acid of the formula (IV):



wherein

X is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom; and
R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a halogen, a carboxyl group, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, an optionally substituted acyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

wherein R¹² and R¹³ optionally form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic group with the adjacent nitrogen atom and X, and R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ optionally form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic group with the adjacent carbon atom, ~~provided that when X is a nitrogen atom, R¹³ is void,~~

- (b) cinoxacin or
(c) sparfloxacin,
or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

to an arylcarboxylic acid of the formula (I):



wherein

L^1 is an optionally substituted aryl group having not more than 14 carbon atoms; and

R^1 is an optionally substituted alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms or a single bond,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the pyridonecarboxylic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lomefloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, enoxacin, ciprofloxacin, tosufloxacin, fleroxacin and levofloxacin.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the arylcarboxylic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ibuprofen, diclofenac, 2-naphthoic acid, 2-naphthylacetic acid, bromfenac, salicylic acid, aspirin, flufenisal, ibufenac, alclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen and mefenamic acid.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the pyridonecarboxylic acid is added in a proportion of 0.001-5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the arylcarboxylic acid.